श्री सभापति: अभी चेन्नई के साथ-साथ आप दूसरा याद मत दिला देना नहीं तो और सप्लीमेंट्री आ जाएगी।

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the 40 flights which the United Kingdom has to designate to the various points of call is purely in their domain. Officially, we have not been communicated anything so far. But about the newspaper reports or what you have read, I don't wish to make any statement on that here in Parliament.

सरकारी पदों तथा व्यय में कटौती

*84. **श्री मोती लाल वोरा:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उनके मंत्रालय ने व्यय सुधार समिति की सिफारिशों के आलोक में मंत्रालयों/विभागों को सरकारी पदों में कटौती और खर्च कम करने का सुझाव दिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) उनके मंत्रालय के सुझाव पर संबंधित मंत्रालयों/विभागों की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है; और

(घ) यह कटौती कब तक लागू किए जाने की संभावना है?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री पी॰ चिदम्बरम): (क) से (घ) विवरण सदन के पटल पर प्रस्तुत है।

विवरण

(क) से (घ) व्यय सुधार आयोग (ई॰आर॰सी॰) ने 42000 पदों को समाप्त करने हेतु उनकी पहचान की है। इस पर सम्बन्धित मंत्रालयों/विभागों ने समाप्त करने के लिए 24,000 पदों का पता लगाया है, जिनमें से 18,682 पदों को पहले ही समाप्त किया जा चुका है।

व्यय सुधार आयोग ने यह सुझाव भी दिया है कि वार्षिक सीधी भर्ती योजनाएं प्रत्येक मंत्रालय/विभाग के लिए तैयार की जाएं। कार्मिक एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग ने मई, 2001 में अनुदेश जारी किए थे कि सीधी भर्ती रिक्तियों को सीधी भर्ती रिक्तियों के 1/3 तक ही सीमित होना चाहिए, बशर्ते कि यह संख्या विभाग की कुल संख्या के एक प्रतिशत से अधिक न हो। इन अनुदेशों के परिणामस्वरूप, लगभग 93,500 पद समाप्ति के लिए तथा लगभग 39,500 पद भरे जाने के लिए अभिनिर्धारित किए जा चुके हैं।

सरकार का यह सतत प्रयास रहा है कि गैर योजना, गैर विकासात्मक व्यय को नियंत्रित रखा जाए। इस संदर्भ में अन्य उपायों के साथ-साथ सभी मंत्रालयों/विभागों को फिजूल खर्च से बचने के

लिए समय-समय पर अनुदेश जारी किए जाते हैं। इन उपायों में अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ पदों के सृजन और रिक्त पदों को भरे जाने पर प्रतिबंध भी शामिल है।

Curtailment in Government posts and expenditure

†*84. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has suggested the Ministries/Departments to curtail the number of Government posts and expenditure in the light of recommendations made by the Expenditure Reform Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of concerned Ministries/Departments on the suggestion of his Ministry; and

(d) by when, the curtailment is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) The Expenditure Reforms Commission had indentified 42,000 posts for abolition. Against this, the concerned Ministries/Departments have identified 24,000 posts for abolition, of which 18,682 posts have already been abolished.

ERC had also advised that annual Direct Recruitment Plans be prepared for each Ministry/Department. Department of Personnel and Training have issued instructions in May, 2001 that direct recruitment should be limited to 1/3rd of the direct recruitment vacancies subject to a ceiling that this does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Department. Around 93,500 posts have been identified for abolition and around 39,500 posts have been identified to be filled up, as a result of these instructions.

It is Government's constant endeavour to contain non-plan, non-developmental expenditure. It is in this context that, along with other measures, instructions to avoid wasteful expenditure are issued from time to time to all the Ministries/Departments. These measures, *inter-alia,* include restrictions on the creation of posts and the filling up of vacant posts.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

श्री मोती लाल वोरा: माननीय सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि व्यय सुधार समिति ने ऐसे 42,000 पद पहचाने थे, जिन्हें समाप्त करना था और उसके विरुद्ध जो संबंधित मंत्रालय और विभाग थे, उन्होंने 24,000 पद पहचाने, जिनमें से 18,682 पद समाप्त किए जा चुके हैं। इन 42,000 पदों में से जो शेष रहे हैं 18,000 पद, उनके बारे में कोई विशेष जानकारी नहीं दी गई। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि व्यय सुधार समिति ने यह भी एक सुझाव दिया था कि वार्षिक भर्तियों की योजना बनाई जाए और प्रत्येक विभाग इस दिशा में काम करे। इस सिफारिश के अनुसार मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि जो 39,500 पद पहचाने गए उन 39,500 पदों में से कितने पदो में भर्ती की जा चुकी है और जो 93,500 पद ऐसे बताए गए थे, जिन्हें समाप्त करना है, इन 93,500 पदों में से कितने पद अभी तक समाप्त किए गए और 39,500 पदों में कितनी भर्ती की गई?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, abolition of posts is an ongoing prcoess. while it is true that the Expenditure Reforms Commission identified 42,000 posts; Ministries/Departments have actually identified only 24,000 posts for abolition and 18,682 posts have been abolished. There is a committee under the Cabinet Secretary, which is reviewing it, and if a Ministry wishes to retain a posts, which has been identified for abolition, it can approach this committee and plead functional justification. That is why, there is a gap between what the Expenditure Reforms Commission said and what the Ministries are doing. Our effort is to encourage abolition, but this process is an ongoing process.

As regards the other recommendation of the DoPT to which the hon. Member referred to, while 93,500 posts have been identified for abolition; we can only fill up to one per cent of the total sanctioned strength. Therefore, 39,500 posts have been identified to be filled up. Now, filling a posts in each Ministry is a long drawn out process and it depends upon the Departmental Promotion Committee or the Recruitment Committee or the UPSC or the Staff Selection Commission. I would not be able to say how many posts in each Department have been filled up. But 39,500 posts can be filled up, the remaining stand abolished.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Department of Personnel and Training had issued instructions in May 2001. Now this is 2004. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that the instruction which had been issued in the year 2001, have they been fulfilled, because the Minister is not sure about the filling up of 39,500 posts whereas they have abolished the posts. They have abolished 18,682 posts, but as far as the filling up of posts is concerned, the Minister is not sure whether they have been filled up or not. I would like to know how much time it will take to fill up these posts now.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as I said, this information has to be collected from each Ministry. Each Ministry has its own rules and procedures for filling up posts. Sometimes it is a long drawn out process because it has to go to the UPSC, sometimes to the Staff Selection Commission. I won't be able to say how many posts have been actually filled by each Ministry or Department. I am sure if the hon. Member puts the question in respect of any particular large Ministry or Department, the Minister concerned will be able to say or the Department of Personnel will be able to say how many posts have been filled. On my side, I am looking at it as an expenditure control measure and my effort is to ensure that the posts identified for abolition are abolished and they do not appoint more than what is permitted by the Government to be filled up.

श्री सभापति: नेक्स्ट क्वेश्चन श्री गोयनका।

श्री मोती लाल वोरा: माननीय सभापति जी, मुझे एक प्रश्न और पूछना है।

श्री सभापति: अब क्वेश्चन खत्म हो गया।

श्री मोती लाल वोरा: सभापति जी, मुझे एक प्रश्न और पूछना है।

श्री सभापति: आप अब इनसे जाकर बात कर लीजिए।

Review of Energy Security

*85. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the escalating threats to energy security of the country posed especially by the emerging problems of crude oil shortage and high prices;

(b) if so, the details of intensive studies undertaken, if any, and holistic policy and alternative solutions worked out;

(c) whether Government have also reviewed the proceedings of the Peak Oil Conference held recently in Berlin,wherein the Association for the Study of Peak Oil has made some grim predictions, on the diminishing world oil reserves and the rising price of crude, reaching phenomenal $ 182 a barrel; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?